

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2103

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: DISMISSALS AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE LAW SCHOOL

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 1345-C, (B) SANTIAGO 0102-C

1. SUMMARY: NEW DEAN OF UNIVERSITY OF CHILE FACULTY OF JURIDICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES REDUCES TEACHING HOURS OF CLOSE TO 70 PROFESSORS AND 80 ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AS PART OF "RE-ORGANIZATION" TRIMMING OUT OR CLOSING DEPARTMENTS CONSIDERED IRRELEVANT TO STRICT TEACHING OF LAW. ALL PERSONS REMOVED EXCEPT ONE WERE EITHER LEFTISTS OR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. THESE MOVES ARE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF NEW RECTOR'S AVOWED INTENTION TO EXTIRPATE ALL PERSONS WHO HOLD POLITICAL VIEWS CONTRARY TO JUNTA (REF A). SMALL TREMORS ALSO FELT AT VALPARAISO CAMPUS OF U OF CHILE. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGH-CIRCULATION DAILY "LA TERCERA" AND WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "ERCILLA" REPORTED MAR 10 LARGE-SCALE DISMISSALS TAKING PLACE AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE FACULTY OF JURIDICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AS PART OF NEW DEAN'S "REORGANIZATION." MEDIA REPORTS OF APPROXIMATELY 80 PERSONS LOSING POSITIONS DENIED BY FACULTY'S SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO CLAIMED IN "ERCILLA" INTERVIEW AND LETTER TO "LA TERCERA" THAT OF PROMINENT PROFESSORS MENTIONED BY MEDIA ONLY ONE WAS BEING FIRED, WHILE

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OTHERS HAD BEEN CHANGED FROM FULL OR HALF-TIME PROFESSOR

STATUS TO EMPLOYMENT ON HOURLY BASIS IN KEEPING WITH REORGANIZATION AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.

3. REPORTS CAUSED PARTICULAR SURPRISE BECAUSE ALLEGED DISMISSALS INCLUDED TWO FORMERS DEANS OF SAME FACULTY OF LAW (ONE ALSO A FORMER FREI MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW) AND OTHER PROMINENT PROFESSORS. ONLY PROFESSOR DISMISSED WHO WAS NOT KNOWN LEFTIST SYMPATHIZER OR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT WAS IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR OF PRESENT DEAN, WHO ADVOCATED INTER-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO TEACHING OF LAW VERSUS NARROWER APPROACH FAVORED BY NEW UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES AND OTHER RIGHTIST ELEMENTS.

4. ONE OF TWO DEANS REPORTEDLY DISMISSED EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF THAT UNIVERSITY'S CLAIM THAT NONE OF PROMINENT PROFESSORS MENTIONED BY MEDIA WERE ACTUALLY FIRED IS TECHNICALLY TRUE. HE, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS SUMMARILY TOLD BY HEAD OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF DEAN ON MAR 4 THAT HENCEFORTH HE WOULD BE REDUCED FROM FULL-TIME PROFESSOR TO PAYMENT ON HOURLY BASIS FOR 6 HOURS PER WEEK (AT 250 PESOS PER MONTH, LESS THAN DOLLARS 25 AT CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE) OF DUTIES TO BE SPECIFIED BUT WHICH WOULD NOT INCLUDE TEACHING ANY CREDIT COURSES. HE AND OTHERS IN THIS CATEGORY WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE REPORTING TO FACULTY FOR FEW HOURS PER WEEK OR RISK BEING FIRED FOR "ABANDONING THEIR POSITIONS." SO FAR, ALL ARE REPORTING IN BUT WONDERING WHERE TO TURN FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME.

5. INVOLVED IN CURRENT DISMISSAL-REDUCTION EXERCISE, ACCORDING TO FORMER DEAN, ARE 69 OUT OF FORMER TOTAL OF 521 PROFESSORS AND 31 OUT OF FORMER 235 ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL, FOR TOTAL OF 100. STATUS OF OTHER 50 STILL IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, FIGURE EXPECTED TO CHANGE EVERY FEW DAYS AS INDIVIDUALS SO FAR AFFECTED HAVE ONLY BEEN TOLD ORALLY, NOT IN WRITING. NO EXPLANATION AVAILABLE ON REASON FOR SUMMARY DISMISSAL OF ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ, FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF JUSTICE IN FREI GOVERNMENT, OTHER THAN HIS PDC TIES.

6. FORMER DEAN STATES CATEGORICALLY THAT EXTREME RIGHT-WINGER PABLO RODRIGUEZ GREZ IS MOVING SPIRIT BEHIND LATEST UPHEAVAL.  
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HE REPORTS THAT HIS OWN "INTRODUCTION TO LAW" COURSE NOW BEING TAUGHT BY RODRIGUEZ. FORMER DEAN CONFIRMED RUMOR THAT RECTOR-DELEGATE JULIO TAPIA FALK HAD ACTUALLY CONSIDERED NAMING RODRIGUEZ DEAN OF LAW FACULTY IN JAN SHORTLY AFTER RECTOR TOOK OFFICE, BUT WAS DISSUADED BY OTHER RIGHTIST IDEOLOGUE JAIME GUZMAN STRICTLY FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL RIVALRY FOR PROMINENCE AND POLITICAL CLOUT. HOWEVER, NEW DEAN, HUGO ROSENDE, IS ALLEGED BY OUR INFORMANT TO BE WEAK LEADER

COMPLETELY UNDER SPELL OF RODRIGUEZ.

7. MEANWHILE, "EL MERCURIO" REPORTED MAY 10 THAT AT VALPARAISO CAMPUS OF UNIV OF CHILE 10 PROFESSORS FROM THREE FACULTIES HAD THEIR RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED BY RECOT TAPIA, WHILE 50 STUDENTS FROM SAME CAMPUS WERE NOT ACCEPTED FOR RE-ENROLLMENT IN NEW ACADEMIC YEAR "BECAUSE OF ACTIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION."

8. COMMENT: LATEST MOVES AT LAW SCHOOL FURTHER CONFIRM OUR SUSPICION THAT NEW RECTOR IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND DOMINATED BY EXTREME RIGHT. HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT AS RECTOR, AS REPORTED IN REF A, STRESSED NEED FOR CLEANING OUT ALL POLITICALLY SUSPECT ELEMENTS, AND REDUCTIONS AND DISMISSALS HAVE BEEN LESS AND LESS CONVINCINGLY JUSTIFIED FOR BUDGETARY AND ORGANIZATIONAL REASONS. WE BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE LAW SCHOOL BEING USED TO TEST HOW FAR EXTREME RIGHT CAN GO IN MOVING AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY; IF THIS MOVE SUCCEEDS, OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER UNIVERSITIES MIGHT WELL GET THE SAME TREATMENT. ENTIRE EXERCISE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BRING SEVERE REACTION FROM CRITICS OF CURRENT REGIME AND UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION BOTH WITHIN CHILE AND ABROAD, NOT TO MENTION HARDSHIPS TO UNEMPLOYED CHILEAN ACADEMICS WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN FURTHER "BRAIN DRAIN". THOSE MAKING DECISIVIONS AT UNIV OF CHILE HAVE EITHER IGNORED THESE COSTS OR PUT POLITICS ABOVE FURTHER DAMAGE TO CHILE'S POSITION AND PATRIMONY IN THE INTELLECTUAL WORLD.

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